

HCS HB 405 -- DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Hubrecht

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill provides that when a death occurs outside a licensed health care facility under the care of a licensed, certified hospice, no investigation shall be conducted if the death is certified by the treating physician of the deceased.

This bill is similar to HB 2617 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when a death occurs under hospice care, the county coroner and police are now investigating the death regardless of whether the hospice physician will sign off on the certificate of death. Under the bill, if the physician will not sign off on the death certificate an investigation will occur. There are many inconsistencies in the application of current law across the state and it would be greatly beneficial for law enforcement and hospice providers to have this change codified in law.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hubrecht; Diana Sidebottom, Compassus Hospice and Palliative Care; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.